GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2015
Water Vending Machines at Railway Stations
Charitra Shri Ram;Singh Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the various provisions made at the Railway Stations for supply of drinking water to the passengers;

(b) whether the Railways are able to meet demand of drinking water at railway stations and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to install water vending machines at railway stations so as to provide potable water at an affordable cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of machines likely to be installed and estimated cost along with the employment likely to be generated as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.187 BY SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD AND SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.08.2015 REGARDING WATER VENDING MACHINES AT RAILWAY STATIONS

(a) & (b): It is Railways' endeavour to provide drinking water at all stations on Indian Railways as per norms depending upon the volume of passenger traffic handled. In water scarcity areas where existing sources are found inadequate to meet the water requirement at stations, water supply is also augmented through tankers. Further, improvement/augmentation of passenger amenities including provision of drinking water at Railway Stations is a continuous process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. In addition, Rail Neer and other Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) approved packaged drinking water bottles are also sold at stations.
(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. As a recent initiative, to ensure availability of clean drinking water at low cost to the passengers, Water Vending Machines (WVMs) are to be set up by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) at identified Railway stations. At present, shortlisting of agencies for WVMs has been completed. 4615 Water Vending Machines are to be installed, in a phased manner. At present, the estimated cost per machine is between ` 5 lakh to ` 7 lakh depending upon the quality parameters of raw water available at the Railway Station and it would require engagement of 2 to 3 persons per machine.
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